

under Ministry's scheme of 'Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects'.

Development of eco-tourism in Rajasthan

701. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that eco-tourism is being promoted on priority;
- (b) if so, the details of the sites selected, especially in the State of Rajasthan;
- (c) the criteria for selection of eco-tourism sites and the agencies involved in the selection process;
- (d) the partnership between Centre and States in developing eco-tourism sites including providing the financial, technical and other support to the States; and
- (e) the expected increase in tourism inflow, domestic tourists and foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Ministry of Tourism promotes eco-tourism on priority. Development of tourism including eco-tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State/U.T. Governments. Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to the States/UT Governments for the project proposals, including eco-tourism projects, prioritized in consultation with them. Such prioritized projects, including the eco-tourism projects for the States/UTs, including Rajasthan for Central financial assistance during the current financial year are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement-I appended to Unstarred Question 697(C) and (d)].

(e) In view of the present buoyancy in travel and tourism, the international and domestic tourism is expected to grow at an average rate of 13-15% per annum.

Inter-linking of river and flood water

702. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have prepared a Master Plan for inter-linking of rivers and flood water within ten years as directed by the Supreme Court by its order dated the 31st October, 2002; and